



# Access Guide

## In the cave

The self-guided Big Room Route is partially accessible to visitors using wheelchairs. The non-skid trail is paved with a mixture of emery chips and epoxy. The route, which is about one mile (2 km), begins at the Underground Rest Area. About 2/3 of the Big Room Route is wheelchair accessible, with assistance. Use the map on the reverse side of this brochure as a guide.

Visitors using wheelchairs should go into the Big Room only with assistance. Both the map and barriers on the trail define areas open to wheelchair users. Some areas are closed due to the steep grade and narrow trail.

Please do not take wheelchairs into closed areas or leave them unattended in the cave.

Information is provided by rangers, exhibits, and the Cavern Audio Guide. Accessible restrooms are available in the Underground Rest Area.

### Note

The Self-Guided Natural Entrance Route, Kings Palace Guided Tour, and Caving Tours are not accessible to visitors using wheelchairs. Exhibits and photographs of these areas are offered in the visitor center.

## On the surface

### Parking

Accessible parking is marked with blue reserved signs. Automatic doors are available at the main entrances. The visitor center, bookstore, theater, coffee shop, and gift shop are on the same level, with ramps from the parking lot. One accessible picnic table is located near the parking lot in front of the visitor center.

### Fees

Golden Access Passport holders receive a 50% discount on cave entry fees. Ask for information about this free lifetime passport for people with disabilities.

### Summer Bat Flight Program

Reserved, accessible parking is available in the lower parking lot near the cavern entrance, where the bat flight program takes place. The top of the bat flight amphitheater features a reserved area for visitors using wheelchairs. An accessible restroom is available.

### Nature Trail

A section of the self-guided nature trail near the visitor center is partially accessible to people using wheelchairs. The trailhead is located in the east parking lot. Check at the information desk for more details.

### Rattlesnake Springs Picnic Area

This grassy area features picnic tables and cooking grills under large cottonwood trees. One accessible picnic table and accessible restrooms are available.

### Desert Drive

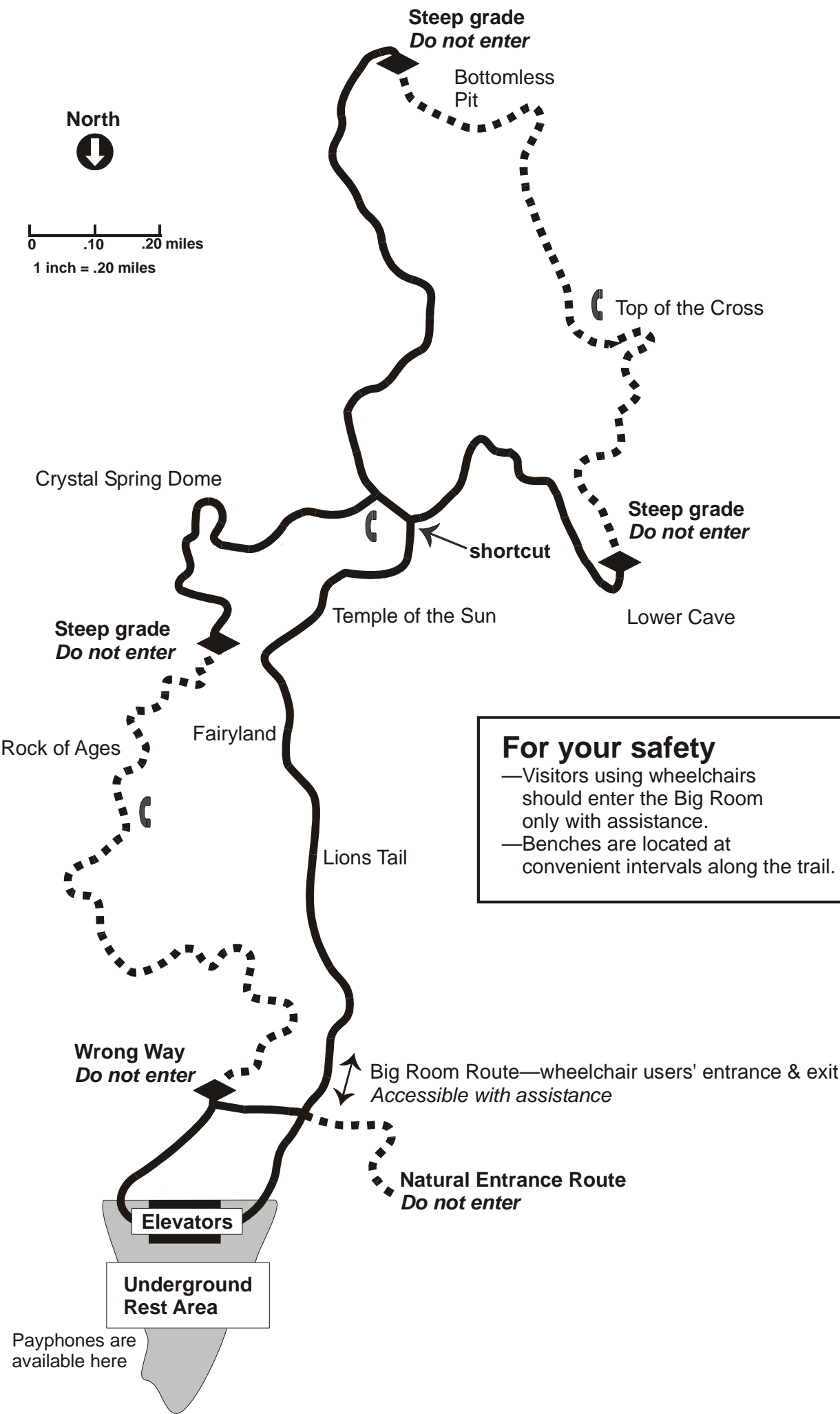
A one-hour drive through the Chihuahuan Desert, this low-speed, 9.5-mile (16 km) gravel road is suitable for most vehicles except motor homes and cars pulling trailers. The road starts near the visitor center. A brochure is available for purchase at the bookstore.

### Roadside Exhibits

Interpretive signs and bulletin boards are located at pullouts along the park entrance road. Most are readable from your vehicle.



# Big Room Route



## Key

- trail open to wheelchair users
- - - trail **not** open to wheelchair users
- ☎ emergency telephone
- ◆ trail barrier & turnaround point

## Approximate Distances

from elevators to shortcut	.22 mi (.35 km)
from shortcut to Lower Cave barrier	.10 mi (.16 km)
from shortcut to Bottomless Pit barrier	.18 mi (.30 km)
from shortcut to Rock of Ages barrier	.14 mi (.22 km)